UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS HOUSTON DIVISION

Veronica Castro, : Civil Action No.: 4:16-cv-1167

Plaintiff,

v.

Conn Appliances, Inc.,

COMPLAINT

JURY

Defendant.

For this Complaint, Plaintiff, Veronica Castro, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

JURISDICTION

- 1. This action arises out of Defendant's repeated violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227, et seq. (the "TCPA").
- 2. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that Defendant transacts business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

PARTIES

- 3. Plaintiff, Veronica Castro ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Missouri City, Texas, and is a "person" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).
- 4. Defendant, Conn Appliances, Inc. ("Conn"), is a Texas business entity located in The Woodlands, Texas, and is a "person" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).

ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS

- 5. In or around January 2015, Conn began calling Plaintiff's cellular telephone, number 832-XXX-8757, using an automatic telephone dialing system ("ATDS") and using an artificial or prerecorded voice.
- 6. When Plaintiff answered calls from Conn, she heard a prerecorded message which instructed her to call Conn regarding a payment.
- 7. In or around February 2015, Plaintiff requested that Conn stop calling her cellular telephone number.
- 8. Nevertheless, Conn continued to place automated calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number.

COUNT I VIOLATIONS OF THE TCPA – 47 U.S.C. § 227, et seq.

- 9. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 10. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant called Plaintiff's cellular telephone number using an ATDS and using a prerecorded or artificial voice.
- 11. Defendant continued to place automated calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number despite knowing that it lacked consent to do so. As such, each call placed to Plaintiff was made in knowing and/or willful violation of the TCPA, and subject to treble damages pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C).
- 12. The telephone number called by Defendant was assigned to a cellular telephone service for which Plaintiff incurs charges pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1).
- 13. The calls from Defendant to Plaintiff were not placed for "emergency purposes" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(i).

- 14. Plaintiff is entitled to an award of \$500.00 in statutory damages for each call made in negligent violation of the TCPA pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).
- 15. Plaintiff is entitled to an award of treble damages in an amount up to \$1,500.00 for each call made in knowing and/or willful violation pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B) and 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against Defendant:

- 1. Statutory damages of \$500.00 for each violation determined to be negligent pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B);
- 2. Treble damages for each violation determined to be willful and/or knowing pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C); and
- 3. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: April 29, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Jenny DeFrancisco

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